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SPUR LAND-RECLAMATION PROJECTS

TO RECLAIM MILLIONS OF HECTARES -- Warsaw Rzeczpospolita, 25 May 50

About 700 kilograms of water are needed to produce one kilogram of hay,
450 kilograms of water for one kilogram of grain, and 280 kilograms of water
for one kilogram of potatoes.

Poland's agricultural production data for 1926 - 1938 show that the
average yield per hectare of the three most important grains declined each
year. Scientific research places the blame on the lack of moisture in the
soil caused by timber cutting and insufficient land reclamation.

To raise Polish agricultural and livestock production to the desired
level, it is imperative to carry out land reclamation projects. The work is
very costly and will take years to complete unless the entire nation and espe-
cially the peasants participate.

The current Land Reclamation Campaign scheduled for 10 May - 10 June is
intended to mobilize all available peasant forces for this purpose.

The Six-Year Economic Plan envisions a 45-percent increase over 1949 in
agricultural production and 66 percent in livestock production. Improved land
yields several more quintals of grain per hectare, 50 percent more root crops,
and 100 percent more hay than land which has not been drained or irrigated.

Land-reclamation installations are being set up at a great cost to the
government. Direct benefits from the conservation program of the existing in-
stallations amount to several million zlotys. The annual cost of maintenance
is 6 billion zlotys. This may seem enormous, but it must be remembered that
the value of the installations is 300 billion zlotys. Over 1,200,000 hectares
of meadows and 1,800,000 hectares of farmlands have been improved. If work of
maintaining these improvements in proper condition were to stop, hay, grain,
and root crops would be enormously reduced, and after 12 years the land would
not yield enough crops to supply the nation with the basic food necessities.

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An additional 1,800,000 hectares of meadowland and 3 million farms must be improved to achieve the desired level of agricultural and livestock production.

Participation of organized peasant groups, youth, and Service for Poland Organization, etc., must speed up the work. About 2,000 persons including 1,000 youth are helping to reinforce the banks of the Wisla near Sochaczew. The peasants of Swieciechow Village with the help of other villages reinforced about 4 kilometers of the Wisla riverbank. The value of the work contributed is estimated at many million zlotys.

The current reclamation campaign is the first organized contribution of the villages to agricultural economy. At present, about 2,000 villages are participating in the program, but more are joining the movement, challenging others to compete in finishing the work on schedule.

SOIL CONSERVATION CONTINUES -- Warsaw Express Wieczorny, 25 May 50

Great areas of the seacoast will be afforested this year to prevent further inroads on the coastal area by the sea. The Hel Peninsula is in greater danger of attrition.

About 70 million saplings have been allotted for the afforestation program.

TO OPEN LAND-RECLAMATION SCHOOL -- Krakow Dziennik Polski, 26 May 50

The Wojewodztwo Division for Training Agricultural Cadres will open in Szczecin a 4-year lyceum for the study of land reclamation. This will be one of the few schools of its kind in Poland to train technical experts in land reclamation.

FORESEES GOOD 1950 HARVEST -- Warsaw Poleka Zbrojna, 5 Jul 50

An area of 9,500,000 hectares will be harvested this year in Poland. The harvest season starts between 5 and 10 July; however, on some lighter-soil areas, for example, Krakow, Katowice, and Lodz wojewodztwos, harvesting has already begun. According to experts, the winter wheat and rye crop will be better than in 1949. The condition of spring wheat, oats, and spring barley is good; in fact, in some areas of the country it is much better than in 1949. The cutting of winter rape, begun in mid-June, is almost completed. Ninety percent of winter barley has been cut.

Ninety percent of the harvesting in PGR (State Farms) will be done by machines. PGR have approximately 15,000 harvesters and sheaf-binders and 90 Soviet-made combines. Agricultural producers' cooperatives will have 90 percent of their harvesting done by machines. The agricultural producers' cooperatives will receive 1,200 harvesters and sheaf-binders from POM (State Machine Centers). SOM (Cooperative Machine Centers) have approximately 25,000 various harvesting machines to help individual farmers. It is estimated that 50 percent of the harvesting will be done by machine. PGR, POM, and SOM are well supplied with parts for harvesting machines, by machine. PGR, POM, and SOM are well supplied with parts for harvesting machines, rope for sheaf binding, etc. Youths from two organizations, 3,000 from the SP (Service for Poland) and 5,000 from the ZMP (Polish Youth Association) are helping with the harvest work on PGR.

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